

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior listings in this application.

LISTING

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) A pellet of chromatography media of agarose, dextran or acrylamide/azlactone copolymer comprising a coherent aggregate of distinct beads having a capacity to resist a force, as demonstrated by a Schleuinger Pharmatron hardness of at least about 2 Kilo Ponds, and capable of being rapidly hydrated on addition of water to form a gel where said media has been derivatized with a ligand.
3. (Previously Presented) The pellet of Claim 2 where said ligand is selected from the group consisting of Protein L, Protein A, Protein G, streptavidin, and glutathione.
4. (Currently Amended) The pellet of Claim 3 where said media is ~~chelated~~ cross-linked agarose and is chelated with nickel.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of using a pelletized chromatography media of agarose, dextran or acrylamide/azlactone copolymer characterized by a coherent aggregate of distinct beads having a capacity to resist a force, as demonstrated by a Schleuinger Pharmatron hardness of at least about 2 Kilo Ponds, including the step of rapidly hydrating the media to form a gel.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 where the media is hydrated with a fluid selected from the group consisting of water and an aqueous buffer selected based on the desired chromatographic application.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 where the fluid for hydration is water.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 where hydration of the media is complete within 120 seconds.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of hydrating a pellet consisting essentially of an aggregate of distinct beads of a chromatography media composed of crosslinked agarose, dextran or acrylamide/azlactone where the pellet is coherent and capable of resisting force, as demonstrated by a Schleuinger Pharmatron hardness of at least about 2 Kilo Ponds, including the step of adding water to the pellet which hydrates within 120 seconds to form a gel wherein said beads are swollen and substantially uniformly dispersed.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 where said media is cross-linked agarose and further comprising the step of chelating the media with a metal nickel.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)